
To prevent and treat disease and disability; to promote healthy lifestyles; and to protect and promote the health and quality of our environment.

NEWS

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11 CASES OF SALMONELLA CONFIRMED IN ADA COUNTY

BOISE, Idaho, December 11, 2002 – Eleven confirmed cases of Salmonella enteritidis, a diarrheal illness, have been reported to the Central District Health Department (CDHD) as of Dec. 10. At least 10 of the cases are associated with dining at Eddie's restaurant, 7067 Overland Rd., in Boise between Nov. 27 and Dec. 5.

According to Dieuwke Spencer, CDHD epidemiology supervisor, health department investigators working on the case have met with the restaurant management and have provided the employees with food handling and cross contamination training,

"The management and employees of the restaurant have been very cooperative and very concerned with the health and safety of their customers," said Spencer.

Although appropriate actions have been taken with the restaurant to prevent any new infections, the CDHD is concerned about possible secondary cases stemming from people who may not realize they are infected. "There may be people who have not been sick enough to seek medical care, but who could infect others unknowingly," Spencer said.

Symptoms of Salmonella can occur 6 to 72 hours after being infected and can last several days. Salmonella is characterized by nausea, headache, abdominal cramps, vomiting, diarrhea and fever. Salmonella may cause more serious illness in the elderly, the very young and those with underlying health conditions. Anyone experiencing these symptoms for an extended period should seek medical treatment.

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SALMONELLA INFECTIONS

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The primary means of Salmonella transmission is through contaminated food. The CDHD urges people to wash their hands repeatedly when preparing and handling food, to not use raw eggs in beverages or ice cream, and to not cross-contaminate food or food preparation surfaces with raw eggs or raw poultry.

For more information call the Central District Health Department epidemiology unit at 327-8625 or visit the CDHD web page at www.cdhd.org/CommunicableDisease/diseases/salmonella.asp

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